

Continued from front page,,,

the stones, Stephen looks up into heaven and says... "Lord, don't hold this sin against them."

Early in the week I was asked, "What would I pray for my enemies about?" Well, we could start with every evil thing that our enemies have done... the specific things that we remember, the things that hurt the most, and ask... "Lord, as I intervene on their part, could I ask that you not remember this thing against them?" There is a challenge for me. To go back through my memory, rekindling the memory and changing my response this time. God may be restructuring your heart as you move through the process.

Rebuilding hearts isn't an easy task. It brings pain, fresh hurts, and raw feelings to the surface, then exposes these feelings to the healing power of God's presence in prayer. Nothing but good could come from that.

One of those who held the coats of the ones throwing the rocks was Saul, who becomes the Apostle Paul. Later in his life he adopts the same response to personal injury. Of those who abandoned him at this first trial he said, "May God not hold it to their account." Seems he learned the lesson.

I pray that those who participated received benefit from God and a peace of Christ from the Holy Spirit.

*Grace and Peace,
Carl*

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

**St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
St John, KS 67576
620-549-6146**



I want to thank those who responded to my challenge to pray for our enemies. I had about a dozen messages, all of them acknowledging that it caused them to see things in themselves that they need and want to work on. I think that is a powerful insight into prayer. When our prayers are focused on others, praying from an obedient heart intent on following God... we gain understanding about ourselves.

One message asked, "Also, am I understanding correctly, that it is a sin if we don't intercede in prayer for others?" In other words, "Wow, this is tough, and important. I would be sinning if I refused." My answer was simple. "If God tells us to do something and we refuse or ignore it, it is a form of rebellion."

You see, I don't think God expects us to pray for our enemies because He might forget them and fail to bless them. I don't think that he is needing our "Okay" to bless them either. There is something in the process of praying for other people, especially those we might not normally pray for, that is good for us on a deeply spiritual level.

In Acts 7, Stephen is being stoned by an angry mob. From what the Scriptures tell us, Stephen has presented information about God that they didn't want to hear. As the crowd begins to throw

Continued on back

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
Afternoon Service—1:15 pm
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Brening, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
Terry Sallee, George Shelton
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel
TREASURER: Richard Brening

Worship Order for November 16 , 2014

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 239—In Moments Like These
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 138:1-14 (Orrin Feril)
SONGS: No. 300—Praise Him! Praise Him!
No. 226—Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
No. 117—God is the Fountain Whence
No. 800—What a Friend We Have in Jesus
PRAYER: Chris Mansel
SONG: No. 176—Lamb of God
COMMUNION: Tom Turner
Teddy Gingrich
Ben Sizemore
Fred Johnson
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 652—We Have Heard the Joyful Sound (v 1 & 4)
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 907—Hark, the Gentle Voice (vs 1)
PRAYER: Joe Cornwell

(CCLI #2440129)

Welcome Visitors

We are pleased you have joined us in worship—please come again!

Wednesday Night

- Adult Bible Class will meet here at 7:30 pm.
- Youth Group will meet at Carl & Janet's at 7:30 pm.

Teen Retreat at Silver Maple Camp

Nov 21-23 — Cost is \$75 for the entire weekend; see flyer posted or go to www.silvermaplecamp.org for more information.

Secret Santa Fund—St John School

Monetary donations are beginning to be collected for the Secret Santa Fund at the St John School. This effort provides clothing for Stafford County children who are in need. Last year a package of clothing was provided to 30 children. Checks should be made to "Secret Santa Fund" and can be turned into the St. John School. Contact [Lisa Cornwell](mailto:Lisa.Cornwell@stjohnschool.org) for information.

Stocking Stuffers of Kansas

Mark your calendar for the Stocking Stuffers third annual soup supper on Dec 6th at the IOOF Lodge. There will be soups & desserts provided by the Wheatland Café. Contact [Hannah Sallee](mailto:Hannah.Sallee@wheatlandcafe.com) for more information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Lupe Hudson 11/21
Pam Turner 11/21

Prayer Requests

(Please provide updates to Janet)

Kari Smith—hip surgery last week
Don Hornbaker—Kenwood Plaza
Shirley Brening (Richard's mother)
Wilbur Kinnamon—Leisure Homestead-Stafford
Landon Neidig—continues to do well
Myron Brening—The Arbors at Waldron Place
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother)—HomePlus in Stafford
Dennis Lyons (Chet's brother)
Charlene Lyons (Chet's sister-in-law, Dennis' wife)
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother)
Danny Ivy (Marilyn's brother)
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Barbara Schuette (Marla's half-sister)
Jim Sorensen (Tara's brother-in-law; brain tumor)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Vic & Phyllis Staub—Kenwood Plaza
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Margaret Marks (Ned's mother)

Church Website - www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

Women Walking with God 2015

Conference Theme—"Hope anchors the soul" - April 17-18
at the Hartman Arena in Wichita. Registration is now open!
Check out the website: www.womenwalkingwithgod.org